

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment and reconsideration of the rejections of the claims.

Applicants have added new claims 15-20. Applicants submit that the new claims are supported by the specification as well as pending claims 1 and 2. Applicants submit these claims do not raise any issue of new matter.

### **Provisional Double Patenting Rejection**

The Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1-11 and 14 for nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-5, 13-15, and 20-22 of copending Application No. 08/943,771. Applicants request the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until notice of allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative concerning this issue.

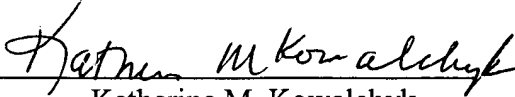
### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe that all claims as currently pending are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: November 22, 2004

  
Katherine M. Kowalchuk  
Reg. No. 36,848  
KMK:sab

